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21 October 1953

The Honorable Arthur S. Flemming
Director
Office of Defense Mobilization
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Flemming:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of 16 October 1953 in which you request certain data from this Agency to be included in a plan for the permanent dispersal of the essential wartime functions of the Executive Branch.

We believe that all of the functions now performed by this Agency will also be essential in time of war. In wartime, as in peacetime, it will be essential for the Central Intelligence Agency to be located in the immediate proximity of the Seat of Government, particularly, the President, the Department of Defense, and the Department of State. In the absence of knowledge of dispersal plans for these important components of the Government we feel unable to give you definitive answers to your specific questions.

Assuming that the Seat of Government will remain in Washington, D. C., and, hence, CIA headquarters, there are certain minor segments of the Agency which could be dispersed to locations on the perimeter of Washington. However, insofar as functions and numbers of personnel involved are concerned, they would constitute a relatively small part of the Agency and, hence, I do not believe that they would affect your over-all plan. With this exception, it is essential to efficient operation that the Agency function as a unit in one location.

We are aware of the importance of this plan and are anxious to cooperate with you in every way. However, it is my belief that this can be done most effectively by consultation with you as the over-all planning for other agencies progresses. If this is agreeable, I should like to designate [redacted] to work with your representative in developing the necessary information.

STATINTL

Sincerely,

/s/

Allen W. Dulles
Director